Army Airborne Command and Control System (A2C2S)

MISSION
Enhance the battle command group's ability to effectively perform combat unit operations; serve as a force multiplier throughout the spectrum of the ever-changing battlefield environment and within the Army's vision of a digitized force.

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS
The Army Airborne Command and Control System (A2C2S) is the Army's only command and control system, supporting corps, division, and brigade commanders with an airborne tactical command post. This mission equipment package will be hosted on UH-60A and L model aircraft. It provides situational awareness and command and control, through the application of the Army Battle Command System (ABCS), incorporating the Maneuver Control System (MCS), All Source Analysis System (ASAS), Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS), and the Force XXI Battle Command and Below (FBCB2) components.

This force multiplier system enables non-line-of-sight communications with an unprecedented range and mobility; it enhances the commander's ability to direct, coordinate, and control forces during deep operations and enhanced fire control management with the artillery, Longbow Apaches, Comanches, Kiowa Warriors, and the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar Systems (J-STARS). During stability augmentation and support operations, the A2C2S provides connectivity to embassy, law enforcement, maritime, civil, and/or other humanitarian information/communication networks.

FOREIGN COUNTERPART
No known foreign counterpart

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES
None

PROGRAM STATUS
The Army began development of the A2C2S in 1996. Since then, two prototype systems containing federated systems were delivered to the first digitized division at Ft. Hood, TX, for participation in the Task Force XXI Advanced Warfighting Experiment. Its successful performance and proven combat effectiveness resulted in the program's selection to receive Warfighter Rapid Acquisition Program funding.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES
4QFY02 Conduct initial operational test and evaluation.
1QFY03 Milestone III decision scheduled.

PRIME CONTRACTORS
The U.S. Naval Research Laboratory is the A2C2S engineering and manufacturing development objective systems developer and is teamed with Assurance Technology Corporation. The U.S. Army's Aviation Applied Technology Directorate is responsible for the physical integration of the system into the host UH-60 platform. Upon completion of the objective system, the production units will be competed to industry.